

## The Times-Dispatch.

Published Daily and Weekly

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Up-Town Office at T. A. Miller's, No. 519 East Broad Street.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1903.

## A Word of Warning.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:  
Sir—I have paid all my taxes assessed against me since 1899. Will I have to pay \$1.50 capitation tax in 1903 to entitle me to vote in 1904.

The new Constitution provides that any person registered according to law shall have the right to vote subject to the following conditions:

That he shall, as a prerequisite to the right to vote after January 1, 1904, personally pay, at least six months prior to the election, all State poll taxes assessed or assessable against him under the present Constitution during the three years next preceding that in which he offers to vote.

That means that all persons who are entitled to vote in the elections next year must have paid at least six months in advance their capitation taxes for 1903, 1902, and 1901.

The exception to this rule is that persons, who during the late war between the States served in the army or navy of the United States, or of the Confederate States are exempt from the prepayment of the capitation tax as a prerequisite to voting.

If our correspondent is a Confederate or Union veteran he is exempt, otherwise he must pay his capitation tax for 1903 if he would vote in 1904. If he is a citizen of Richmond, he must pay his capitation tax before December 1st, in order to qualify himself to vote in the next municipal election.

The General Assembly has enacted a law extending the time within which 1903 taxes may be paid without increasing the five per cent. penalty from December 1st to January 1st. But this does not alter the fact that the capitation tax must be paid at least six months in advance of the next election, and citizens of Richmond who fail to pay their capitation tax before December 1, 1903, will not be qualified to vote in the municipal election next June.

## The Postal Scandal.

The report of Fourth Assistant Postmaster-General Joseph L. Bristow on the result of his investigation of the post-office scandals, together with the memorandum of President Roosevelt, was made public yesterday.

The report is full and the President quotes the attorneys employed by the government, Messrs. Charles J. Bonaparte and Holmes Conrad, as saying that it is "an exceptionally able, candid and impartial review of its subject matter," and that it shows clearly reprehensible misconduct, amounting in many cases to crime, on the part of a number of officials.

The report shows the number of indictments found to be forty-four and the number of persons involved thirty-one, with an approximate loss to the government of \$90,000. The three chief officials indicted are James N. Tynes, Assistant Attorney-General for the Post-office Department; A. W. Machen, general superintendent free delivery system; and George W. Beavers, general superintendent of salaries and allowances. Tynes had been in the government service practically since 1861. As regards Beavers and Machen, the corruption took the form of bribery and blackmail in connection with the purchase of government supplies. During Machen's term of service he was twice investigated by Congress, but managed to cover up his tracks so well that he was vindicated, and so highly were both Beavers and Machen regarded that Congress at the last session actually provided for raising the salaries of both, the salary in each case being increased \$500. But the President says that in the office of the Assistant Attorney-General for the Post-office Department, under Tynes and his nephew, Barrett, far greater wrong was inflicted upon the public than could be measured by a pecuniary standard, for in this office the corruption of the government officials took the form of favoring get-rich-quick schemes and similar swindling schemes. "In other words," adds the President, "the criminals, whom it was the sworn duty of these government officials to prosecute, paid them for permission to fleece the public un molested."

The Postoffice Department is often held up by Socialists as a fine example of the government operation for public utilities, but it speaks very poorly for the service that this sort of dishonesty should have been practiced for so many years in the department by high officials, without being detected. "It would have been almost impossible for such a state of things to go on uninterrupted for so

long in the affairs of a well conducted corporation.

However, it is gratifying to know that the rascals have at last been run down and that they are to be punished for their outrageous abuses of the public trust. President Roosevelt cries aloud against them and against all such corruption, and concludes his memorandum in the following language:

"No crime calls for sterner reprobation than the case of the corruption in public life, and of the man who seeks to corrupt him. The bribe-giver and the bribe-taker are equally guilty. Both alike sin against the primary law of the State's safety. All questions of difference in policy sink into insignificance are brought face to face with a question like this, which lies at the root of honest and decent government. On this question, and on all others like it, we can afford to have no division among our citizens. In the last resort good laws and good administration alike must rest upon the broad basis of sound public opinion. A full public conscience, an easy-going acquiescence in corruption, fully makes debasement in public life, and such debasement in the end means the ruin of free institutions. Self-government becomes a farce if the representatives of the people corrupt others or are themselves corrupted. Freedom is not a gift which will tarry long in the hands of the dishonest or those so foolish or so incompetent as to tolerate dishonesty in their public servants. Under our system all power comes from the people, and all punishment rests ultimately with the people. The toleration of the wrong, not the exposure of the wrong, is the real offense."

This is a timely and a worthy deliverance from the President of the United States, and the sentiment which it contains applies as well in the affairs of State government and municipal government as in the affairs of the national government.

## For Pure Elections.

In Sunday's paper we made mention of a measure proposed by Delegate Green, of Fauquier, requiring candidates for office to make oath in advance of the election that they will not use money in the prosecution of their candidacy, except as provided by law. Mr. Green's measure was offered in the House as an amendment to the general election bill, and is as follows:

"Amending section 122a, Senate bill No. 380:  
After the word Commonwealth, page 12, line 10, insert:  
"The person intending to be a candidate for any office shall file with the clerk of the court, in this section an affidavit, subscribed to by him, before any election, and will not, and will not attempt to procure the nomination for or election to the office, or to arrange for, or to cause to be arranged for, or to encourage or connive at, the using or spending of any money or other valuable thing on the part of others in his behalf as candidate for that office, or to election, or to money or other valuable thing spent or used, or claimed to have been spent or used, in his behalf, as aforesaid, and that I have not, and will not, reward in any manner whatsoever any person who has spent or used, or who claims to have spent or used, money or other valuable thing in his behalf, as aforesaid, and that I have not, and will not, violate, either in letter or in spirit, the laws of this Commonwealth relative to the expenditure of money or other valuable thing in procuring nomination for or election to office, except for the payment of such expenses as are permitted and authorized by law. So help me God."

(Signed).....  
State of Virginia.....  
County of.....  
Subscribed and sworn to before me, in my county (or city) aforesaid, by..... on this..... day of....., 1903.  
(Or other officer qualified to administer oaths.)  
An person making a false statement in such affidavit shall be deemed guilty of perjury, and shall be fined not less than one hundred dollars, or shall be confined in jail not less than one nor more than twelve months.  
On page 12, line 20, as above, insert and filling the affidavit, as above required.  
On page 21, page 12, after notice, insert and affidavit.  
The amendment was adopted in the House without division, but the election bill, as amended, has not yet been passed; but we hope the Green amendment, in one way or another, will become the law in Virginia. It is a good measure, sensible and practicable, and will have a wholesome influence. Prevention is always better than cure.

We ought to have a general primary law, with the Green amendment incorporated, but even if it become a part of the election law, nominees will have to make oath that they have not used money in seeking the nomination and that they will not use money in seeking election, except as the law permits.

## Wood and Runcie.

The testimony before the Senate Committee on Military Affairs, which is investigating the charges against General Wood, becomes more and more interesting, and the star witness is Major Runcie, Runcie's evidence against Wood is most important, and if it be true it puts Wood in a most humiliating position before the American public.

Runcie's testimony bears especially on a magazine article which appeared several years ago while General Wood and General Brooke were in Cuba. This article, signed by Runcie, created a stir at the time it appeared. The Secretary of War was astounded to see such an article from an army officer in print, and took General Wood to task. General Wood replied that the representative of the magazine had been to him for information, saying that he was endeavoring to collect material for an article on Cuba, and that he referred the writer to Runcie; that Runcie gave him some material, but with the distinct understanding that it was to be used in an article to be prepared by the writer and in no case was Runcie's name to be used. Wood explained that Runcie was his confidential friend and adviser, and that he was sure he would never have published such an article, knowing full well that it would get Wood into trouble.

This article was designed to draw an invidious contrast between the work of Wood and the work of Brooke, and it is believed that this was done in the interest of Wood. However that may be, the fact is that some time thereafter Wood sug-

gested Brooke in the management of Cuban affairs.

At the time mentioned Runcie also denied that he had given out this article for publication, whereupon the editor of the magazine exhibited a letter from Runcie, giving him full authority to print the article with Runcie's signature attached. When this was brought to the attention of Wood, he wired the Secretary of War that he was astounded at the disclosure and that he withdrew all that he had said in Runcie's behalf. Now comes forward Runcie and testifies before the committee that he and Wood and the magazine writer held a conference and planned the attack on General Brooke for the purpose of securing his removal and the advancement of Wood. He declares that he wrote the article at the request of General Wood, and that Wood entered fully into the plot.

It now comes down to a question of veracity between Wood and Runcie. If Wood has told the truth, Runcie has told the truth, Wood is guilty not only of falsehood, but of sharp practice, unbecoming a gentleman and an officer in the United States army. "Taking either horn of the dilemma, the whole story is a sad reflection upon the morale of the army and decent men in the service are doubtless disgusted and nauseated."

## The Fisher Letter.

A new interest in the street car franchise investigation, which has been under way in a Council committee for months, has been aroused by a forged letter, which purported to come from Mr. George E. Fisher.

For a long time Mr. Fisher was in control of the "old company's" lines here, and it is believed that he could give the committee information of value, but he has never yet made it convenient to attend. Nor could the committee compel him to leave New York and come here for that purpose. However, a few days ago, Chairman Minor received a letter signed "G. E. Fisher," stating that the signer had been reading the newspapers, and saying that he was led to say that he had never had "any financial dealings with any 'Councilman or city official,'" and, therefore, could see "no objection in making the disagreeable (to me) trip" to Richmond. Names of half dozen citizens were given in the letter to whom it was alleged that "not cash, but securities, bonds, stocks, etc.," to the amount of \$400,000 had been given.

Telegrams that have passed between Chairman Minor and Mr. Fisher indicate that that letter is a forgery. If so, it is another grossly disagreeable chapter in an investigation which has given anything but pleasure to the general public. And it is too serious a matter to be passed off as a "joke."

It may be that the astuteness and diligence of the newspaper reporters may discover the origin of the letter in a few days; if not, the investigating committee will have more investigating to do. Mr. Fisher could win distinction for himself by coming down here and helping the committee ferret out the perpetrator of what he is understood as characterizing as a forgery, and by answering the questions the committee wish to ask him.

## Richmond's Generosity.

The pastor of a prominent church in Richmond said to his congregation on Sunday that in spite of the change in the fortunes of many people in this city, the contribution for the poor on Thanksgiving Day was the largest that had been made since his connection with the church began several years ago.

This is encouraging. Intentions are that we are to have a hard winter and that there will be more distress in Richmond than has been known in this city for a long time back. Work is not so abundant as it has been and we fear that many will feel the pinch of poverty before the winter is ended.

It is time for well-to-do people to be generous. Although the fortunes of some have been impaired the people generally are prosperous, and are able to give something to the cause of charity. It is easy enough to give out of one's abundance, but true charity implies sacrifice. A dollar received by a person in need will bring the same benefit no matter from what source it comes. But a dollar given will bring to him who gives far greater benefit when there is an element of self-sacrifice in the gift, and the greater the sacrifice, the greater the benefit.

It is now a good season for those who love to practice the true spirit of giving and to realize the truthfulness of the saying that is written, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

The Maryland delegation in the House of Representatives are again making an effort to have the United States government refund the sum of \$200,000 which the town of Frederick was compelled to pay to General Early in 1861 to save the place from burning. Early's action at Chambersburg and at Frederick was taken in retaliation for the campaign of destruction of Hunter and others.

It is represented in the Frederick petition that Frederick was loyal to the Union and had complied with all requirements of the Federal government for the prosecution of the war. It is therefore urged that the tribute levied by General Early to save the place from burning should now be reimbursed.

Judge B. S. Dollittle, of the Circuit Court of Cabell county, W. Va., has been prohibited by the Supreme Court of that State from sitting in what is known as the King land suit, involving the ownership of thousands of acres of land in

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that State. The Forest Coal Company were the complainants, and they charged that the Judge is personally interested. After hearing the evidence in the case, their request was granted by the Supreme Court.

The Savannah News is quite right in taking to task a Kansas correspondent who says that the corn cob pipe was "first made by a German, along in the seventies." No man knoweth the origin of that pipe. It is quite likely that it came into use with the habit of smoking tobacco, and that it long antedated the settlement of Europeans upon these shores. It is safe to assume that the corn cob pipe was devised by the aborigines, though it was not their favorite pipe. A soft, porous easily carved stone—soapstone in this part of the country—was in general use by them.

Perhaps, the Kansas writer was speaking of the machine made, varnished and plastered corn cob pipe now offered for sale in many stores. "We do not know who introduced this pipe, but it is only a variation from, scarcely an improvement upon, the old fashioned corn pipe of our fathers.

The principal art in making the "home made" corn cob pipe is in charring the bowl so that it will not take fire from the burning tobacco.

According to the Baltimore Herald, on Sunday, for the first time in the history of the archdiocese of Baltimore, a mass was solemnized in a Catholic church in that city "in the language that Christ used on the cross at His crucifixion." That "language was Syrian," and it was employed at a mass celebrated in the Holy Rosary Polish Catholic Church by a Syrian priest. The entire mass was in the Syrian language, not one word of Latin being used.

Winter has come upon us here unusually early, but not in the severity with which it has visited many other places. We guess, however, that it has been sufficient to ripen the parsons, if not to afford supplies for country ice houses. It does not lie in the mouths of the people of this State to complain of the weather. The last winter and the last summer were models in their way, and we are not hurt by any of this season's weather.

There is an epidemic of typhoid fever in the town of Butler, Pa. One physician has sixty-five patients. Four physicians are among the sick. Large sums of money are being raised to relieve the sufferers. It is said that as much as \$1,000 per week will be required. We have seen no statement as yet as to the origin of the epidemic.

Eighty Filipino boys have been quartered in American families in California to learn American customs and it is said that the California families are becoming very apt students of Filipino customs.

Colonel Bryan is having a high old time in dear old England, and he may come back with sundry amendments to his former views, and then again he may not.

Mr. Cleveland's letter put a kind of dull third stop to some of Colonel Watson's brightest editorials. The gifted editor will have to find another subject.

Bourke Cockran will to-night afford the Richmond public an opportunity to judge whether the day of the orator has passed, as some men have rashly said.

Christmas comes on the unlucky Friday this year, but that fact will not diminish the small boy's disposition to take all possible risks with the cannon cracker.

The only possible objection Colonel Bryan can offer to Mr. Cleveland's letter is that it did not come out quite soon enough to please Colonel B.

Get up your anti-smoot petitions. They will increase the pay of the men in the government printing office, and to that extent will do good.

The North Carolina papers are loud in their praises of Richmond hospitality and of Virginia grace in the hour of defeat on the gridiron.

## Trend of Thought In Dixie Land

Augusta Chronicle.

Senator Bacon is opposed to the Panama policy, but is in favor of a canal. He takes practical views. Senator Tillam is a most practical man, but in the thing is forced on him, he wants all he can get for South Carolina. There is no use chasing illusive dreams.

Savannah News.

It is reported that Gen. Wood, at the head of American troops, attacked 200 Alouas. This is the most wonderful achievement that has happened since the combat of John Falstaff with the men in buckram.

Columbia State.

It appears that we guaranteed Columbia sovereignty against foreign assault—all foreign assault—but not against an explosion in the interior.

Birmingham News.

President Palma, of Cuba, naturally discourages the idea of annexation with Uncle Sam. President Palma doubtless realizes that well paying political jobs in Cuba are too hard to get to have them snatched away by a little thing like annexation.

Montgomery Advertiser.

"Those 'Hearts clubs' which are forming in various places, so we are informed, are probably only stage clubs, started with saw-dust."

North Carolina Sentiment.

"The Durham Herald remarks: 'The newspapers do not want to think that the conviction of that negro in Jones county and that other one in person means that their remarks about the Haywood trial has brought about a change.'

"The Wilmington Star salutes the parting guest thus: 'Going up against public sentiment in North Carolina is something like butting your head against a brick wall. Good-bye, good-bye, good-bye, but really never thought about its being loaded.'

"The Asheville Citizen says: 'Well, in the bargain would say, 'It is the spoils that count,' and if this junta is sufficiently tangible to form a connecting excuse between the administration and the conviction of that negro for the forty millions, the 'gray wolves' and our friend 'Bacon'—why, we suppose the people will just have to try and digest what the administration is tempted to swallow."

The Raleigh Post observes:

"We can well imagine the energy with which the senator from Missouri, General Cockrell, and the handsome senator from Utah, State Mr. Overman, moved from the Senate marble room when Mrs. Carrie Nation announced her presence in her own vigorous manner. As they could not give her the glad hand, they at least left the marble room—and fled. Still gallant, but prudent."

With a Comment or Two.

No one will be surprised to see Mr. Hanna go into the convention with sufficient delegates to defeat his strenuous young friend, for the nomination. Although Mr. Roosevelt has the powerful weapon of place and power to use in securing of athletic trophies for the State.

But your Uncle Marcus says he doesn't want the nomination. Can't you take his word about a little thing like that? Major Miles M. Martin, of the Passenger and Power Company, estimates that a young man aggregating between \$100,000 and \$200,000 was expended by his company in securing franchises, and he thinks that some of the money was not committed himself positively on that point, for he said he was not certain, but that Mr. Fisher could tell when by all means let us hear from Mr. Fisher. If it be possible to get him to testify, Richmond Times-Dispatch.

It would be interesting, we think, for the Richmond public to learn what share of this vast sum went into the pockets of Councilmen and how much of it remained in the hands of those who had charge of its disbursement. The general belief is that the fellows belonging to Councilmen secure more of the "swag" than those who do the voting—Norfolk Ledger.

Why is it so much easier for an offender in Virginia to get off on appeal than before a magistrate?—Norfolk Ledger.  
A pertinent question that should be answered by somebody.

## A Few Foreign Facts.

A German inn keeper on the Swiss border has undertaken, as a result of a Councilman, life and how much of it remained in the hands of those who had charge of its disbursement. The general belief is that the fellows belonging to Councilmen secure more of the "swag" than those who do the voting—Norfolk Ledger.

The British workmen have managed to put away a goodly little nest egg in friendly, building, co-operative and trade union societies and savings banks. The records show that \$1,500,000 of them have \$1,500,000 in such savings.

The curfew bell is still rung from October 31 at Durham and Swineshead, in Lincolnshire, the day of the month being indicated by the number of strokes on the bell.

Diseases of the heart have greatly increased in Germany in recent years, one person in every seven being now afflicted. Influenza, alcoholism and excessive addiction to bicycling and other sports are named by Dr. Steudel as the chief causes.

Portugal is the most illiterate country in Europe; nearly 68 per cent. of her population are illiterate. In Italy the proportion of illiterates is 53 per cent.; in Russia, 36 per cent.; in Spain, 9 per cent., and in Britain, not quite 4 per cent.

## Personal and General.

C. W. Cotton, the oldest reporter in Indiana, is actively at work on the New Albany "Daily Ledger" at the age of seventy-seven.

Mrs. Fred W. Vanderbilt gave a Thanksgiving dinner to 500 newboys at Masonic Hall, Newport, on Thursday last.

Next Saturday Chauncey Denew will formally open the season of dinner-giving

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Fac Simile Signature of  
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At 6 months old, 35 Doses—35 CENTS.  
EXACT COPY OF WRAPPER.

In Washington, by entertaining that other happy groom, Thomas C. Platt, and the latter's bride.

Rev. Dr. John Habersham Elliott, for thirty-four years rector of the Pro-Cathedral Church of the Ascension at Washington, has been relieved of his charge at his own request. Failing health is the reason, given for Dr. Elliott's retirement.

"Arthur Duffy, of Georgetown, the American inviolable and international champion sprinter, has a collection of medals that any athlete would be proud of. He will send them as part of the souvenir of athletic trophies to be displayed at the St. Louis Exposition next year.

## Short Talks to the Legislature.

Charlottesville Progress: Senator Byars, of Bristol, has introduced a bill in the General Assembly which provides that the President of the University of Virginia must have been a resident of Virginia for at least two years prior to his election. If there is any probability of such an absurd measure being seriously considered, there should be introduced an amendment which will apply the principle of residence to students also.

Louisiana Enterprise: We hope the bill introduced by Mr. Folkes will be knocked into a "cocked hat" with one emphasis, so that no other member of the Legislature with "wheels" in his head will venture to offer anything resembling it again.

Newport News Times-Herald: The Virginia Legislature, a political body, but this does not refer to the political body of any of them.

## Building Up the West End.

Editor of the Times-Dispatch:  
Sir—The new west end of the city is being rapidly occupied by the new residences, and to a stranger visiting that part of the city the impression is that of a new town. Many of these houses are occupied by the owners as homes, which in the growth of a city is always desirable, as they are built for rental as an investment.

The extension of the city must be principally in this west end, as the old city, the river and Hollywood prevent extension to the south, while Broad Street is an imaginary barrier, preventing growth toward the north. Westward then must be the line of improvement.

While the general plan of interior arrangement of these new houses seems to meet the wants and requirements of the people, it is to be regretted that so little attention is given to the exterior appearance, and that there could be so much smartness in design or want of design. Block after block have been erected with the same unvarying bay window, and a variety in design, and under the supervision of the architect better houses altogether. Even in the small houses, it is poor economy not to employ the best of an architect, as a most ample return for the amount of his fee would be secured by the increased value of the houses.

It has been a cherished hope that the area around the Lee Monument would be in time the most attractive part of the city, but with this district being filled up with these small and insignificant dwellings in blocks, with no attempt at architectural design, such a hope can be no longer entertained.

The question arises if we are to have a better class of houses in the future, what is being done in the building up of other cities. Where will the new buildings be located?

## The Country's Laborers.

There are to-day 5,000,000 day laborers in this country. One out of four of them belong to national trade unions, another million to trade unions not yet national in their scope, and the remainder comprise the army of unorganized labor.

## SEABOARD AIR LINE RAILWAY.

Christmas Holiday Excursion Rates. On December 23, 24, 25, 26, 31, 1903, and January 1, 1904, the Seaboard will sell Christmas holiday tickets at one and one-third first class limited fares, plus twenty-five cents, for the round trip, to all points east of the Mississippi and south of the Ohio and Potomac Rivers; final limit, January 4, 1904.

The following special rates will apply: Richmond and Henderson..... \$4.75 Richmond and Raleigh..... 6.05 Richmond and Columbia..... 15.00 Richmond and Savannah..... 20.05 Richmond and Atlanta..... 25.05

FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS. For teachers and students of schools and colleges, same rates will apply as shown above, on presentation and surrender of certificate signed by the superintendent, principal or president of school or college; date of sale, December 15 to 23, 1903, inclusive; final limit, January 8, 1904.

For tickets and other information, apply to Richmond Transfer Co. or ticket offices, Murphy's Hotel and Main Station, or  
J. S. LEARD, W. J. MAY, Ticket Agents, City Ticket Agent, Phone 495, No. 330 E. Main St., Richmond, Va.

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The difference between good engraving and poor amounts to but few cents in price, but in satisfaction the difference is considerable, and it is worth something to know that your engraving is done right. Come in and talk with us regarding wedding invitations, visiting cards and the like. Or a few suggestions for crest or monogram for your writing paper might interest you. A box of paper, with monogram, or visiting cards engraved in latest styles would be a good Christmas gift.

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1719 EAST FRANKLIN STREET,  
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trifle with your eyes, and do not allow anyone else to do it for you